

MARCH 21.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Forty-six members present.

Mastodon andium.—Prof. LEIDY directed attention to a specimen consisting of the greater part of the left ramus of the lower jaw of *Mastodon andium*. It belonged to a mature individual, and contains the last true molar in functional position. The penultimate molar had been shed, and its alveoli are partially obliterated. The crown of the retained molar presents four transverse ridges, besides a strong tubercular talon. It measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches fore and aft, and 3 transversely. The specimen was obtained by Dr. Isaac T. Coates, of Chester, Pa., from a land slide, at Tarrapota, near the town of Chasuta, on the Huallaga River, a branch of the Amazon, in 7° south latitude.

On Natural Inarching.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN remarked that observations on natural inarching among forest trees were common, but now and then were some incidental phenomena worthy of note, an instance of which, on a Hemlock Spruce on the grounds of Amos Little, Esq., of Germantown, was recently brought to his notice.

In this case, a branch had ascended to one above, and appeared to have pierced through it, coming out on the upper side; and the pierced branch, beyond the point of union, had increased to nearly double the size of the part below. The illustration on the black-board was simply from memory, but served to show the position and proportions of the branches. In this case, the upper portion of the seemingly penetrating branch had died soon after the union, and the annual deposits of wood had, of course, in time surrounded it, making it appear very nearly in the centre. The lower portion had continued to live, and all its nutritive collections had gone to feed the branch to which it had become attached. A plant growing in rich soil would make shoots perhaps double the thickness of the same growing in poor soil; in other words, the size of a branch was proportionate to the amount of nutrition at its command. In this case, two branches feeding one main one, gave that branch a double advantage on the score of nutrition, and its increased size naturally followed.

Many strange phenomena reported in the newspapers in connection with natural inarching may, no doubt, be as easily explained, if all the details were correctly reported.

